Summary of Climate Change and Human Health Workshops

The USGCRP's Climate Change and Human Health Working Group (CCHHG) convened two regional climate change and human health workshops in February 2012 as part of the National Climate Assessment (NCA) process. The workshops were supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Oceans and Human Health Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences.

The Southeast and Northwest regions were chosen. These workshops each brought together 50 – 60 people to help provide a more nuanced representation of regional climate change impacts on human health. The workshops also provided an important venue for dialogue and collaboration-building among regional climate change experts, public health experts, and other stakeholders.

The overall goal of these workshops was to:

Inform the 2013 U.S. NCA report;
Increase the level of understanding of climate and health science in the region;
Raise awareness of ongoing climate and health activities in the region;
Improve tools for public health decision making by providing a forum for scientists and decision makers to share information and develop new or improve existing partnerships; and
Serve as a pilot for how to sustain an ongoing assessment process for understanding, predicting and adapting to the human health impacts of climate change across time scales.

Synthesis reports and regional project inventories for each workshop have been developed and submitted as technical input to the National Climate Assessment 2013 Report, and will be made publicly available.